



The Arlington Advocate



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104 PAGES 4 SECTIONS

Heights re-opens

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS
STAFF WRITER

More than 2,000 people turned out for the official re-opening of the Arlington Heights business district Nov. 19, enjoying free food, gifts and events for the children.

There were no construction trucks to avoid, or ditches to watch out for, as crowds of people walked over the new brick sidewalks sampling everything from chocolate chip cookies to Indian food to free pens and key chains.

"We were just amazed at the turnout," said Carol Ryerson, president of the Chamber of Commerce. "People really just seemed to be having a great time. Now we just have to make sure they keep coming back and spending their holiday money!"

The newly-widened sidewalks were tested out by bustling families waiting in line for free cotton candy and hot dogs while the white lights on the trees lit the way.

For the merchants, it was the first time they had seen this many people in the Heights in a long time. The \$1.45 million "streetscape" project had left business owners complaining that the construction was keeping customers out of the Heights.

"My regular customers have already started coming back in to eat," said Shashi Jain, owner of Tandoor Indian Restaurant. "It is just so nice to see this many people back in the area. They used to come in every once in a while and complain about the parking, and I would assure them, 'Just wait a couple months and it'll be better.'"

Jain said she expects her business to return to normal within a few months.

"The celebration tonight was a very important part of getting people to come back to the Heights," she said. "Every minute a new person is coming in to try my food, and they like it, and I know they will come back."

But Pat Connors of Arlington Cat & Dog Salon is not as optimistic.

"It looks beautiful," she said. "I am thrilled they

SEE HEIGHTS, PAGE 15



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN JACOBUS

Will Cates, 4, right, David Arruda Jr., 4, and his great aunt Elizabeth Voto look at a holiday train display through the window at Larson Insurance Agency during the re-opening of the Heights shopping district Nov. 19.

Wanamaker Hardware kicks off 75th anniversary

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS
STAFF WRITER

Locking the front door of his hardware store does not always mean the end of the business day for Mark Wanamaker. He may get a call from a friend who needs a pump because his basement is leaking or from town officials during a bad rain storm.

It's this type of service that has made Wanamaker Hardware in

Arlington Heights a 75-year success story.

"When the lights go off at the store, they usually stay on at my house," Wanamaker said.

The store's 75th anniversary celebration kicked off Nov. 19 during the re-opening of the Heights. Wanamaker marked the occasion with a bright red "75" atop the large Christmas tree next to the store.

Mark's grandfather, Chester

Wanamaker, started the store in 1923 at 1350 Massachusetts Ave.

"It began as a hardware store. Well, at least the sign said 'Wanamaker Hardware,' but it was really kind of a hodgepodge of a store," said Mark, explaining that it sold anything from furniture to electrical wiring.

When Chester died, the store was taken over by his only child, John, who was 17 at the time.

The store changed locations in

1943, moving to the current site of Balich 5 & 10. Ten years later, it moved again to 1298 Massachusetts Ave., where it remains today.

Mark first started working at his father's store at age 18, stacking the Coca-Cola machine and doing some cleaning when he was 13. From then on, there was never a question of whether or not he and his older brother,

SEE WANAMAKER, PAGE 17

Unions upset with premiums

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

Faced with a 10-percent increase in premiums, members of several town employee unions are questioning the town's latest insurance figures and criticizing what they say is a rushed process for setting new rates.

The issue of proposed rate increases surfaced for the first time at the Nov. 12 Board of Selectmen meeting. After hearing how concerned employee representatives were, the board decided to postpone its decision until the Nov. 30 meeting. To prepare, selectmen will thoroughly examine gross monthly health insurance costs.

Last week Emilio Rosselli, chairman of the Insurance Advisory Committee, said it's not the idea of raising the rates that concerns him the most, but rather what is causing losses in the town's trust fund balance.

"I have no problem with increasing the rates, if it's warranted," he said, pointing out he was not at the Nov. 9 and Nov. 12 committee meetings where members discussed the proposed increase. "I don't know if raising the rates is necessarily the answer."

The town's consultant Kevin Walsh, of Group Benefits Strategies, said costs are running 7 percent higher than funding levels. He recommends a 10-percent increase to cover anticipated costs for next year and make up a portion of this year's deficit.

The town's trust fund balance in June 1998 was \$828,000 compared to \$1.8 million in June 1997. The trust fund balance, an account which employees and the town contribute to, must be estimated each year according to what industry consultants feel rates will be in the future.

A 10-percent increase is high,

SEE INSURANCE, PAGE 5

Town Meeting to tackle 11 issues

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

Town Meeting members will vote on 11 articles at a special session Dec. 2 which concern zoning bylaws, removal of contaminated soil, land purchase, noise control and the establishment of a new committee.

The special Town Meeting, expected to span two evenings, will begin on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Town Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Selectmen are recommending three articles which would establish an Election Review Committee, appoint additional members to the Millennium Celebration Committee and regulate the hours when heavy equipment and construction machinery can operate in Arlington.

An Election Review Committee, proposed under Article 8, will examine current practices and policies to determine if they maintain efficiency in town elec-

SEE TOWN MEETING, PAGE 5

Board against Osco rezoning

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS
STAFF WRITER

The Redevelopment Board voted Monday against recommending that Town Meeting support a petition to impose stricter zoning on the Osco site at Massachusetts Avenue and Mill Street.

Abby Campbell-King, a resident and certified architect, presented a series of options for the site if it were rezoned from B2A to B1.

The former Time Oldsmobile location has raised controversy all year. After Osco's parent company, American Stores Inc., purchased the property for \$2.1 million,

SEE OSO, PAGE 5

Officials: Nutrition program under-used

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS
STAFF WRITER

More than 400 Arlington families could be eating better this Thanksgiving if they took advantage of a nutrition program few people know about.

Though 619 local families are eligible to participate in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, only 184 families are enrolled.

"There are a tremendous amount of people who just don't know they are eligible for WIC," said Shanna Morse, a WIC dietitian, who works one day a week in the local WIC office. "Maybe they have a dad with a good job and a mom who stays at home with the children, and they think because one of them is working then they are not eligible. But they may very well be."

WIC, a federally-funded program administered by the state, began in 1974 and has been available to Arlington residents since 1975. The local office recently moved from the basement of the Robbins Library to Alewife Pediatrics on Massachusetts Avenue.

The program supports pregnant

women, babies, and children under 5, who are especially vulnerable when it comes to good nutrition. They may not know the best foods to eat or be able to afford the right kind of formula for their babies, according to WIC administrators.

The goal of the program is to improve the nutritional and overall health of participants by providing access to health care, nutrition education and counseling, and nutritious food. Participants receive checks for milk, cheese, fruit juices, iron-fortified cereals, peanut butter, dried beans and eggs. The WIC program also collaborates with the Department of Food and Agriculture to provide coupons redeemable at farmers' markets for fresh fruits and vegetables.

"WIC is unique because it benefits those who are at critical periods of rapid growth," said WIC Director Karla Menger.

Dr. Martha McCarty, a physician at Alewife Pediatrics, said she refers patients to the WIC program at least three times a week.

"It's an important program," said McCarty. "One of the most important aspects of it is that

SEE WIC, PAGE 15

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN JACOBUS

Margaret Marino, right, activities assistant at the Park Avenue Nursing Facility, helps residents Margery Weekes, left, and Louise Ghilioni wrap a food basket. Residents at the home put together baskets for needy families.

INSIDE

Holiday gift guide

See this week's supplement for gift ideas ranging from home heating services to place-mats for your pet. This section is also chock full of gifts of music, poetry and art created by people in our neighborhood.

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WORKING
A HELP WANTED SECTION WORTH EMPLOYER

MEETINGS

Nov. 29
Noise Abatement Study Committee, 7 p.m., 65 Woodside Lane

Board of Selectmen, 7:15 p.m., Selectmen Room, Town Hall

Dec. 1
Millennium Celebration Committee, 7:30 p.m., Hearing Room, Town Hall

Arlington Arts Council, 7:30 p.m., Robbins Library

Arlington Historical Commission, 7:30 p.m., Whittemore Robbins House

Dec. 2
Noise Abatement Study Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Selectmen Room, Town Hall

Vision 2020 Standing Committee, 7:30 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Dec. 3
Thompson School Council, 3:30 p.m., Library at Thompson School

ROUND UP

Hurd planning community meetings

Selectmen Jack Hurd plans meetings in several locations around Arlington to give residents an opportunity to voice ideas in an informal setting.

On Dec. 1, the first of Hurd's yearly neighborhood meetings will be held at the Fox Library at 7 p.m. The agenda will include traffic control and safety, a school construction update and an open discussion.

Hurd plans to hold three or four meetings each year for residents to talk about neighborhood and town issues of interest to the Board of Selectmen. He will be the only selectmen in attendance, but will report relative information to the board.

All residents are welcome and encouraged to discuss what they feel is going well in Arlington and what needs improvement and further attention. Additional meeting dates are tentative at this time although Hurd estimates holding meetings every few months. Any residents who have ideas for future agendas may call Hurd at 648-2169 or the selectmen's office at 316-3000.

Finance Committee seeking new member

The Finance Committee is seeking a member to fill a vacancy in Precinct 1. The Committee is authorized to have one member from each of Arlington's 21 precincts.

Chairman Allan Tosti said he hopes to have the Finance Committee at its full strength in January, when the Committee begins its heaviest workload.

The Finance Committee works with town officials to set the budgets that the Committee recom-

mends to the annual town meeting. It also studies and reports on other financial matters that come before town meeting.

Interested persons in precinct 1 should contact the Finance Committee's executive secretary, John Kneeland, at 643-4135 or write to him at 100 Decatur Street.

Noise abatement committee meetings

The Noise Abatement Study Committee meeting to be held Sunday, Nov. 29. For details, contact Steve Paulino at 641-2567.

A second meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the back of the Town Hall auditorium, a half hour before Town Meeting.

AHS reunions

1949: Sept. 17, 1999 at Bedford Renaissance. Contact Betty DeCaprio at (781) 643-6305.

1963: Nov. 28, at the Newton Marriott. Contact Janice Weber at (781) 646-6789 (evenings) (781) 316-3077.

1983: Nov. 28, at the NCO Club at Hanscom Air Force in Bedford. Contact John Carney at (781) 648-5406.

1993: Nov. 28, at the Marketplace in Boston. Contact Matt Moschella at (617) 286-6888.

Paulsen's hours

Rep. Anne Paulsen will hold office hours in Arlington on Friday, Dec. 4 from 1-2 p.m. at the Fox Library at the corner of Cleveland Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Also, in order to be accessible to those who work during the day, Paulsen will also meet with constituents at the Fox Library on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 7-8 p.m.

AT LEAST IT'S NOT SNOW



Mike Casey of Arlington, an employee of Tibbetts Landscaping Inc. of Arlington, use a blower to clear leaves off a walkway outside of the Robbins Library last week.

Former Teamsters president McCarthy dies

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

William J. McCarthy of Arlington, a former president of the national Teamsters union, died Nov. 19 at Symmes Hospital & Medical Center. He was 79.

Born in Boston and a veteran of World War II, McCarthy served as president of the Teamsters 7,000-member Local 25 for 35 years. In 1955, he became president of the local and was named a vice president of the national Teamsters Union in 1969. From 1988 to 1991, McCarthy served one term as general president of the national union.

"This is a man whose accomplishments for working people are endless," said Arlington resident John Murphy, the secretary/treasurer of Teamsters Local 122. "He affected the lives of literally thousands and thousands of people."

Although there was a big age difference, Murphy said he and McCarthy became good friends.

"I wasn't a member of his local union but in the 1980s he took a liking to me and opened a

lot of doors for me in the union," Murphy said. "For that, I will be forever grateful."

Murphy said McCarthy's accomplishments included establishing the first union pharmacy programs which was also the first in the country, founding the first group dental program for the union in New England, creating and founding the New England Teamsters Pension Fund and establishing a blood bank for Local 25 after a friend fell ill. In addition, McCarthy was responsible for establishing the New England Teamsters Supplemental contract, a special set of trucking agreements for New England drivers.

McCarthy became a Teamster when he was 17. He drove the Boston-New York run with an overnight layover three times a week for Benjamin Motor Express, receiving \$16 plus \$4 for expenses for each trip.

After a decade of driving, McCarthy became business agent in 1946 for Local 25.

In 1991, McCarthy lost his bid to be reelected president when he was defeated by reform candidate George C. Cashman, the only union election he ever lost. The following year, citing ill health, McCarthy stepped down

as leader of the union's Joint Council 10 which oversaw 40,000 Teamsters in 40 locals throughout New England.

Roy Herrick of Charlestown met McCarthy when they were both eight years old. Lifelong friends, Herrick said McCarthy's death is the end of an era. "There will never be another like him," Herrick said.

"Everything they've got in Local 25, McCarthy started," Herrick said. "He was a great man, a great union president," he said. "When he was president, Local 25 was the most powerful in the east."

McCarthy was filled with compassion for his fellow man, Herrick said. "He was a rough-and-tumble guy and he had a mercurial temper but he loved people and was always looking out for the other guy, always looking for ways to help someone," he said.

"We used to say William McCarthy was a Teamster's Teamster," Herrick said.

McCarthy is survived by his wife, Mary Audrey; two daughters, RoseMary and Ann; two sons, Larry and Tom; a brother, John; and 11 grandchildren. His funeral was Monday at St. Jerome's Church.

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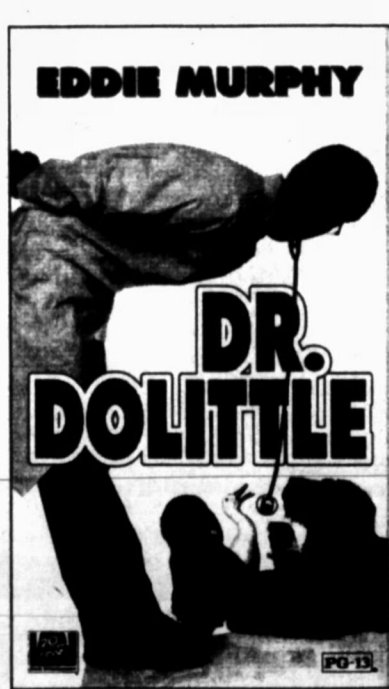
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Gust tries to open eyes on Iraqi sanctions

BY SARAH BOLLINGER
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

"Sanctions are the real weapons of mass destruction," Nancy Gust said. "They kill civilians indiscriminately."

Gust, an Arlington resident whose husband, George Capaccio, has worked for several years to end economic sanctions against Iraq, became actively interested in the plight of Iraqi people in February when she learned of the latest bombing threat.

She believes there is still a strong likelihood that the United States will begin bombing Iraq in the next two weeks. But she is also concerned about the effects of a never-ending war threat.

"I consider it stalking for us to pose a threat at all these people," Gust said. "It's a form of terrorizing that is going on, not just a question of bombing or not bombing. We are walking around their house with a loaded gun as a stalker would."

When she came to these conclusions, she knew that the horrors were "in conflict with what I thought of myself as a law-abiding American. Until then, I had shut my eyes and said, 'I just don't believe it.'"

But news that the U.S. planned to bomb Iraq again got her attention.

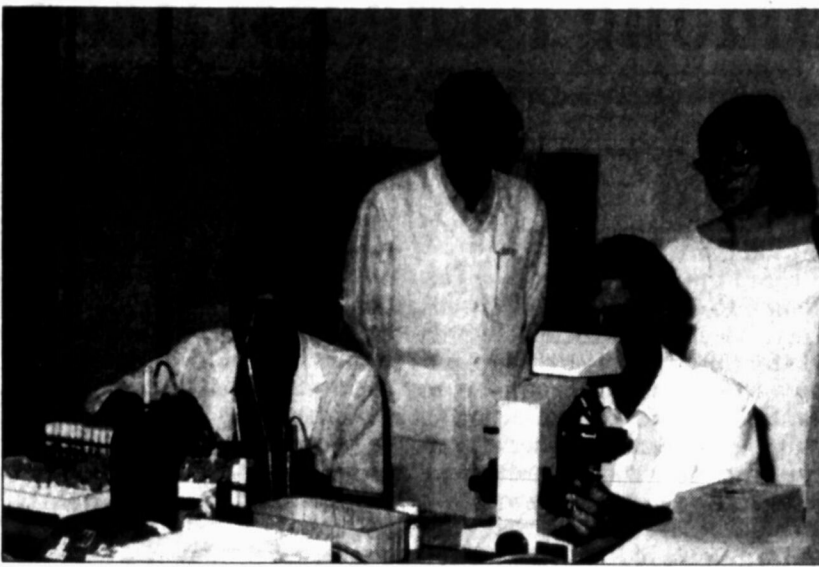
"I had never been active in politics, never paid attention to Guatemala, El Salvador or Haiti," Gust said. "And I never had long conversations with George about [Iraq]. The subject was too awful and too far away to think about. And when I talk to my friends about it now, I find the same resistance."

"I thought, these people are poor and starving, so how on earth could we bomb them? I started researching because I am a marketing researcher." Her firm, Stage One, is also Arlington-based.

"What do they have in mind?" Gust asked. "What would be the point in bombing the country? What about after the strike when nothing has changed? The country will be more of a disaster than it already is."

She has researched the subject for months.

"I put on my business hat, read



Nancy Gust, at right, tours a hospital in Amara, Iraq in September, observing doctors using some of the diagnostic equipment that is still in working order.

articles mainly on the Internet and read lots of books," Gust said. "Finally, I had to go to see for myself. If they are unemployed or currency is so devalued, how could a teacher or an engineer feed their family?"

Once there, she learned how they manage. "I met people who had sold their carpets and TVs," she said. "They sell stuff to put an occasional egg or chicken on the table. Sanctions impoverish the middle class, but not the elite. They have lots Mercedes while others are lucky to have cars with shattered windows."

She spoke last Friday at a Town Hall meeting at Northeastern University Law School, part of a national network of Town Hall events, with Professor Emeritus Howard Zinn of Boston University. The group, sponsored by several local organizations including Campaign for Iraqi People, voted to stage a street protest rally which was held at Downtown Crossing in Boston on Tuesday night. A children's vigil and march will be held in Harvard Square on Saturday December 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Last Wednesday, Gust was part of a delegation that met with the Sen. Edward Kennedy's foreign policy advisors at his Boston office. They learned the senator favors lifting sanctions when conditions are met.

Earlier this month, Gust reported the effects of sanctions at Harvard Divinity School's World Conference on Religion and

Peace. Gust had visited Iraq in late September with Voices in the Wilderness, a Chicago-based peace group dedicated to ending "U.N./U.S. economic sanctions against the people of Iraq."

As part of the delegation, Gust traveled in defiance of U.S. law, risking 12 years in prison and \$1 million in fines for her activities.

The main speaker at the Harvard event was Denis Halliday, an assistant secretary general of the United Nations, who recently resigned in protest as director of the U.N. Humanitarian Mission to Iraq, calling efforts he observed first-hand for 13 months "a humanitarian disaster."

"I believe sanctions are a very blunt instrument," Halliday said, "which discriminates against the weak, the poor and the lower echelon of the economic scale in a way I find unacceptable it is a policy growing out of a bankruptcy of ideas."

Gust echoed Halliday's assertion that "sanctions got them out of Kuwait but were never intended to be a long-term tool."

Noting that public health services have broken down with medical supplies rarely available and waste water treatment facilities destroyed, Gust said that more than 5,000 Iraqi children under five die every month, many born to emaciated mothers.

"In the 1980s, the World Health Organization sent people to Iraq to see a model of free and quality care. Now hospitals have no

antibiotics, no anesthesia. I brought sutures from Arlington, little saline solution bags for babies."

Gust is quick to respond when asked why the Iraqi middle class has failed to rise up and oust Saddam. "When I got there and saw for myself, I knew it is clearly a dictatorship," she said. "The people are exhausted. They work several shifts to survive, and spend 80 percent of their income for food."

Gust compares the strategy to change government policy with the Vietnam protests. "But that is not quite a valid comparison. Then we were seeing our body bags as well as destruction in the country — all on TV. In Iraq, we are not suffering, and we don't see their suffering. There are no photographs of sewage in the street, malformed babies."

Gust reported her findings from the field over a college radio station in Boston, spoke at Boston University's recent Peace Week and will speak on current events at Arlington High School. Her message is that we must help these poor people "because we made them poor."

Again, Gust's marketing background shapes her thinking and her outreach efforts.

"I'm curious about how the media cover the story," she said, "the spin they put on it. Americans are only getting selective information. We are told about an international agreement on Iraq when there is no such thing. They say they want to put Saddam in a box, but what about millions of Iraqi who are hurt by sanctions?"

She finds the Internet is the most effective source of information, specifically the Iraq Action Coalition (<http://www.MiddleEast.org>) or Voices in the Wilderness ([kellyigc.apc.org](http://www.kellyigc.apc.org)), along with the Boston Campaign for the Iraqi People available locally at 617-354-0008 or salaamg@aol.org.

"The U.S. is getting more of a reputation for being a thug," she said. "It's damaging our reputation internationally, not only in the Arab world."

Gust notes Iraqis' weary resignation in the face of the latest threats: "The Iraqis say, 'we are not going to lose more people from bombs than we already have from sanctions.'"

CABLE

Friday, Nov. 27
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
10 a.m. — Arlington Thanks-giving Football vs. Somerville
12 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
5 p.m. — SportsLINE
5:30 p.m. — Forever Baseball
6 p.m. — Arlington Thanksgiving Football vs. Somerville
8 p.m. — The Arlington Ear
9 p.m. — News 3 Arlington
9:15 p.m. — G.A.I.N.
11 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Saturday, Nov. 28
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
10 a.m. — Arlington High Football
12:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
6 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
6:45 p.m. — News 3 Arlington
7 p.m. — SportsLINE
7:30 p.m. — On Screen
8 p.m. — Personal Best
8:30 p.m. — The Screening Room
9 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Sunday, Nov. 29
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
10 a.m. — Pleasant St. Church
11:30 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
5:45 p.m. — News 3 Arlington
6 p.m. — Massachusetts School of Law Educational Forum
7 p.m. — The Screening Room
7:30 p.m. — Coast to Coast
8 p.m. — The Bookcase
8:30 p.m. — The Exploding Envelope
9 p.m. — Front Row at the 1998 Lowell Folk Festival
10 p.m. — Commonwealth Collaborative BB
11 p.m. — News 3 Arlington
11:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Monday, Nov. 30
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
1 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
5:30 p.m. — Home School Alternative
6 p.m. — Exploding Envelope
6:30 p.m. — Town Hall Topics
7 p.m. — News 3 Arlington
7:15 p.m. — Selectmen's Meeting (LIVE)
11:30 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Tuesday, Dec. 1
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Board
2 p.m. — Commonwealth Collaborative BB
2:30 p.m. — Media Scope
3 p.m. — Rainforest Reptile Show
3:30 p.m. — Everybody Folds Something
4 p.m. — Clelia's Cucina Italiana
4:30 p.m. — The Screening Room
5 p.m. — The Arabie Hour
6 p.m. — Grecian Melodies
7 p.m. — Arlington High Football (Replay)
10 p.m. — On Tour Video
12 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board

Wednesday, Dec. 2
6 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
10 a.m. — Greek Orthodox Church Service
11:30 a.m. — Community Bulletin Board
2 p.m. — UMass Distance Learning — Pharmacology
4 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
6 p.m. — Urban Ambience
6:30 p.m. — Exploding Envelope
7 p.m. — Scribblers
8 p.m. — The Front Page
8:30 p.m. — Eco Forum
9 p.m. — SportLINE
9:30 p.m. — Zippy's Happy Hour
10 p.m. — Boston Poetry Flash-es
10:30 p.m. — Paws for Adoption
11 p.m. — Community Bulletin Board
(All programs shown on Arlington Community Television, public access Channel 3, unless otherwise noted.)

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• ANTZ (PG)
1:40, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

• MONUMENT AVENUE (NR)
1:13, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:40

• THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25

• WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
9:25
• PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
2:30, 5, 7:10, 9:15
• THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
2:15, 4:35, 7:20, 9:35
• JERRY SPRINGER RINGMASTER (R)
2, 4:45, 7, 9:45

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POLICE LOG

Nov. 18

At 1:30 p.m., police served a warrant Christian Miranda, 18, of 6 Old Colony Road.

Police responded to the intersection of Gardner and Fremont street to investigate a report of domestic violence.

Police spoke with the victim, Miranda, who said that he was standing on Sunnyside Avenue with a friend when his girlfriend drove up to him in a Jeep and flicked a lit cigarette at him before speeding away.

Miranda said he then began walking away when he saw the Jeep again coming toward him. He said he tried to get out of the way of the Jeep, but was struck on his left leg by the right front bumper. At this point, Miranda said the Jeep came to an abrupt stop and then again came in his direction. Miranda said the Jeep struck him again, knocking him to the ground.

Police talked to four witnesses who said they saw the incident.

While conducting a routine background check, police learned Miranda had an active warrant out for his arrest.

Police later arrested Irene Bouboulas, 20, of 4 Foxmeadow Lane, and charged her with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and leaving scene after personal injury.

Bouboulas told police her boyfriend jumped in front of her Jeep. She was arrested and transported to the station.

At 7:30 p.m., police arrested Keith Yates, 23, of 38 Williams St., and charged him with a straight warrant.

Police reported to the front lobby of the police station for a report of a

disturbance involving a boyfriend and girlfriend.

Police spoke with both people. Yates's girlfriend said they had gotten into an argument after she had picked him up from work. She said that during the argument, she became upset and drove onto the sidewalk in front of 182 Mystic St. The tow then walked to the station.

Police did a routine check on Yates and found that an active warrant was out for his arrest.

Nov. 19

At 8:30 p.m., police arrested John Dixon, 23, of 25 B Memorial St., Somerville and Brian Ford, 23, of 268 Powderhouse Road and charged them with attempt to commit a crime.

Police responded to the Gulf station on 85 River St. for a report of a problem with a customer. A man said he observed a suspicious person talking to the gas attendant. The man then called the attendant and asked him if he needed the police and he responded "yes."

Police arrived at the scene and spoke with Ford, who said that his friend Dixon was planning to rob the store and "rough up" the clerk.

Police then spoke with the attendant who said that the two had pulled up and that Dixon had asked to use the men's room. He then said that Ford had approached him and demanded the money. The attendant explained that he was extremely nervous and that Ford had threatened to go in his car and get a shot gun.

Police arrested both Ford and Dixon.

Nov. 20

At 8:45 p.m., police arrested Michael Callahan, 50, of 60 Pearson

Road, Somerville, and charged him with red light violation and operating under the influence of liquor.

Nov. 23

At 4:40 a.m., police arrested a juvenile and charged him with breaking and entering, intent to commit felony, and malicious destruction over \$250.

At 11:20 a.m., police arrested Mark Pasquarello, 25, of 15A Memorial Road, Somerville, and Kevin David White, 27, of 50 Warner St., Medford, and charged them with breaking and entering (day), intent to commit felony, possession of burglary tools, and attempt to commit a crime.

Police responded to 63 Decatur St. for a report of suspicious men outside the house.

A neighbor called police and said that he saw two men at the front door who then went around to the back door. Through the window, police observed men in the cellar.

When the men saw the police they ran out of the basement and jumped a fence running east on the parkway. After a foot chase, police captured the two men. A third man is currently being investigated.

At 10:45 p.m., police arrested Homar Rodriguez, 28, of 595 South St., Roslindale, and charged him with possession of marijuana.

Police stooped Rodriguez because he had an expired registration sticker. Police informed him that the car would be towed, but during an inventory search of the car, police found a substance believed to be marijuana. Police then arrested him and transported him to the station.

Safeguards, understaffed board among issues in license article

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Selectmen hesitates to repeal any homerule which protects residents and upholds Arlington standards.

That's the main reason they voted not to take action on special Town Meeting's Article 6 which asks for the repeal of a bylaw requiring a town Board of Examiners to grant a license for builders wanting to undertake certain classes of construction projects in Arlington, said selectman Charles Lyons.

The article, submitted by William Rowe of Kensington Road and signed by 200 registered voters, maintains the bylaw may have served a purpose when enacted in 1972 but is no longer necessary. Since 1982, Rowe said, a uniform Massachusetts Construction Supervisors License requirement has been in effect which covers any safeguards Arlington may need.

A majority of the communities in the state have adopted the requirement as the licensing benchmark for construction professionals, according to Rowe. In August 1997, Rowe refused to take the town's exam which was required before he could build an office building on Water Street. Since then, Rowe said the town licensing of builders is a difficult process which does not encourage builders to work in the community and reduces citizens' ability to have their choice of contractors.

Robert Petrucelli, executive director of the Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, recently wrote the Board of Selectmen on behalf of Rowe, pointing out since 1972 a number of safeguards, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), have been enacted. "OSHA's Standards for the Construction Industry are quite encompassing with

the federal agency's Boston regional office being extremely vigilant with enforcement of these standards," Petrucelli wrote.

Rowe also maintains the licensing board has not operated properly in many years, claiming the closed procedure is suspect, the quality of exams is unregulated and the pool of responsible professionals available or interested in the board has all but disappeared.

At their Nov. 16 meeting, however, selectmen said they like the idea of Arlington having an additional safeguard for the public and voted not to take action on the warrant article. Selectman Kathleen Kiely Dias said in the eight years she has served on the board, she has never heard a complaint about the bylaw. "I think most homeowners are not penalized by this safeguard but rather it provides the public as a whole protection in larger construction projects," she said.

Building Inspector Michael Byrne also supports maintaining the bylaw.

"The licensing is a great support for us," Byrne said. "The state building code does not cover construction of certain structures and I'd like to see construction control which takes all building projects into consideration remain."

Since August 1997, 16 people have taken and passed the town's licensing exam. Walter Wiedner, chairman of the Board of Examiners, said the board currently has four members: two registered engineers and two licensed contractors, one of whom serves as an alternate. The board is supposed to have two licensed architects, two registered engineers and two licensed contractors but, because it is a volunteer board, Wiedner said it is extremely difficult to find members.

The board is supposed to meet once a month, Wiedner said, but

meets on an as-needed basis. Some years, he said, members meet three or four times; others years they meet as many as 11 times, depending on the number of construction projects going on in the town.

Wiedner said the board gives exams for construction superintendents wanting a class A, class B or class C license, dependent upon the type of construction project. Construction superintendents, required to be on the construction site at all times work is going on, must have three years experience in the particular field they are pursuing a license.

The exams are oral, lasting between an hour and a half and 45 minutes.

The timed exams consist of a series of questions, which Wiedner asks, on specific types of construction, depending on the license. Other board members are also encouraged to ask questions as they see fit, Wiedner said.

William Faneuf, construction supervisor for the Hardy School project, received an ABC license in October. The exam, he said, was quite professional and consisted of questions which he felt were valid and on subjects a construction supervisor of such a project as the Hardy School should know.

Prior to the interview, Faneuf said he had to fill out an application which listed his experience and names of references.

"We want this type of safeguard in Arlington," said Lyons. "In 1975, a group of engineers and architects around the state used their political might to get the legislature to take power away from municipalities setting up these bylaws in the future."

"Only those towns who had the foresight to have this bylaw on the books, like Arlington did in 1972, are able to maintain local control," he said.

Armenian archives director to speak

Sonya Mirzoyan, director of the State History Archives of the Republic of Armenia, will be in the Boston area next week on a visit hosted by the Armenian Cultural Foundation.

She will deliver a lecture on "The Status of the National Archives in Post-Soviet Armenia: Present Challenges and Future Prospects," on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural Foundation in Arlington.

Mirzoyan will take the opportunity during her visit to Boston to visit the archival collections of the area Armenian organizations, and also tour the facilities of several local universities as well as the National Archives in Waltham.

Born in 1949 in Candzak, Dr. Mirzoyan is a graduate of Baku State University, where she majored in history. After moving to Yerevan in 1973, she joined the State Archives of Armenia, first as junior, and later as senior, researcher and department head. In 1983 she was appointed Deputy Director of the Archives, and since 1993 she has been the director.

The lecture is open to the public and will be in Armenian, with English translation. The Armenian-Cultural Foundation is located at 441 Mystic St. in Arlington. Further information is available by contacting the Foundation at (781) 646-3090.

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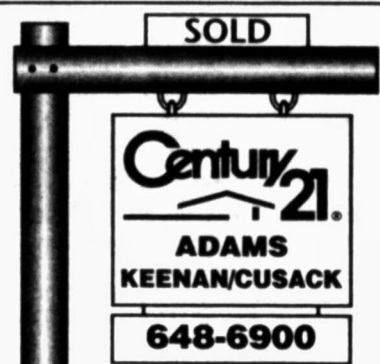
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Osco rezoning not supported

OSCO, FROM PAGE 1

area residents voiced opposition to the proposed Osco drugstore.

Last month, the Redevelopment Board refused to issue a special permit that would have allowed construction of the store. Osco has not announced whether it will appeal the decision. In the meantime, a citizens' group has put forward an article for the Dec. 2 Special Town Meeting that calls for rezoning of the land.

"We have talked to many merchants and residents, and what we have come up with is three different ideas for the use of the site," said Campbell-King.

The first design is for a park, with a parking area for business customers. Campbell-King said a small park would go well with the historic Jason Russell farmhouse on the other side of the intersection.

The second design calls for small townhouses, also with a small green space and parking area.

The third design presents small office buildings.

"There are clearly many uses for this site which will greatly benefit the community," said Campbell-King.

"B1 zoning would confirm the Oct. 26 courageous decision made by the Redevelopment Board,"

said Father Nicholas Kastanas of St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church, an abutter to the property. "The rezoning will help Osco build a structure that will harmonize with our community and be consistent with the zoning around it."

Board member Edward Tsoi said the question is not whether the site is zoned correctly.

"If the board felt that the zoning was wrong, there were many opportunities for them to voice that," Tsoi said.

He said under-zoning a site is as bad as over-zoning it.

Board member Margaret Spengler disagreed.

"I am not worried about under-zoning," she said. "A gentler, more positive use of that land is the right way to go."

But despite the voices in favor of the article, the board voted against supporting it.

The board did vote to support two other zoning articles that will be put before Special Town Meeting.

Articles two and three concern the former BayBank site at 30 Water St. Article two defines "assisted living," and article three would change the zoning on 30 Water St. from I (industrial) to R6 (residential), which would permit an assisted-living complex.

Over the past year, the board neighbors, and BankBoston have worked hard to agree upon the future use of the site.

Director of Planning and Community Development Alan McClellenn Jr. said that, though BankBoston has been cooperative, there is no guarantee they will make a decision that is best for the town.

"They certainly know what we would like, and they have worked very hard in looking at all the options, but it is ultimately their decision," McClellenn said.

"I must support this because there is such a great need for elder assisted living complexes," said Margaret Spengler. "People get older, and they don't want to leave the town that they have spent their lives in. But sometimes they have no choice because there is nowhere to go."

Member John FitzMaurice cast the only dissenting vote.

"I am worried about the parking in the future," said FitzMaurice. "We are defining assisted living and allotting 0.4 spaces per unit. Over the life of this building, the use may change."

FitzMaurice said he would not vote in favor of the articles unless the parking was changed from 0.4 to 0.8 parking spaces per unit.

Town Meeting starts Wednesday

TOWN MEETING, FROM PAGE 1

tions. The committee, if established, will look into the number and location of all voting places in Arlington, the coordination and supervision of elections and review the costs of elections as well as current compensation of election workers.

• The 1997 Town Meeting established a Millennium Committee to make plans for a celebration commemorating millennium events during the weeks leading up to Jan. 1, 2000.

Article 11 proposes additional members can be appointed by the committee itself.

• Article 7, on behalf of residents around Mystic Street, asks the town to amend the bylaws so a new provision can limit the hours heavy equipment and construction machinery can operate.

Recently, said selectman Charles Lyons, residents have complained of construction taking place late in the evening. The general issue of noise pollution can be addressed at regular Town Meeting but this provision, he said, will specifically address certain types of equipment and machinery.

• Selectmen voted not to take action on Article 6 which would repeal the requirement that a town Board of Examiners grant a license, dependent on passing an exam, for builders wanting to undertake certain classes of construction projects in Arlington (see related article on page 4).

The Finance Committee is recommending two articles which would provide money for unantic-

pated contaminated soil removal adjacent to the Brackett School and Arlington's Millennium celebration.

• Article 9 would appropriate an additional \$450,000 to supplement the \$9,100,000 approved for the Brackett School construction project at the May special Town Meeting, bringing the total to \$9,550,000.

The unanticipated removal of contaminated soil is a result of an oil leak at the school. Because the town committed to limiting the tax impact on residents to \$22,000,000 under current projections, the Finance Committee recommends the additional money will be absorbed by the town budgets. The impact of the additional appropriation, after deduction of state aid, will be approximately \$14,000 per year.

• Article 10 would appropriate \$15,000 for Arlington's Millennium celebration under the direction of the Millennium Celebration Committee. The funds, according to the Finance Committee, will allow the committee to sign contracts for key vendors for the town's functions, set to begin next year.

• The Finance Committee voted not to take action on Article 5 which asks the town to acquire part or all of land at 745 Massachusetts Avenue. The article, submitted at the request of 100 registered voters, asks the town to take the land by lease, purchase or eminent domain.

Unions question need for rate hike

INSURANCE, FROM PAGE 1

Marquis said, but is necessary to maintain the trust fund balance at a proper level to cover four months of billing/claims lag (costs which are incurred but not yet reported).

Each year, Rosselli said, the town should look into the insurance issue sooner. Because selectmen have postponed their vote, Rosselli said, the open enrollment period will only last one week which he feels is not enough time for employees to examine their options. The town offers 11 plans and employees will have approximately five business days to learn what their new bills will be before making their decisions.

Police Officer Arthur Kelly, president of the Patrolmen's Association, saw figures just a few days before the issue went before selectmen, which he said was not enough time for careful analysis.

In fact, Kelly said, he feels employee representatives should be given an opportunity to develop a procedure for examining insurance claims. "Employees pay 25 percent of health insurance claims and we want to be certain those being paid out of the trust fund balance should be coming (from that account)," he said.

It's possible, Kelly said, for claims to fall through the cracks inadvertently. The town pays 100 percent of retirement disability claims and Kelly wants to be cer-

tain those claims do not mistakenly come out of the trust fund balance.

Arlington Police Sgt. Kenneth Hughes, a member of the Arlington Police Ranking Officers Association, agrees the numbers require a closer examination. "Our research found some differences from the town's consultants," he said, adding union members believe the numbers lean more on the side of town employees.

At an Insurance Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, Hughes reported he found discrepancies in the numbers. The committee was scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, after the Advocate went to press.

The decision should not be rushed, Hughes said.

"We're not accountants and it takes a while for us to disseminate the information. At this point, we have to take the consultant's information at face value and the selectmen have to take it at face value as well so we think we should have more time to examine this," he said.

The Insurance Advisory Committee is working with the town to save money, Hughes said.

"A 10 percent increase is a large one and we feel we already made concessions about a year and a half ago to save the town \$1.5 million," he said. According to Hughes, the town had to pay over \$1 million as a result of overbilling employees for several years.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Megan C. Sherburne

Sherburne graduates Air Force training

Air National Guard Airman Megan C. Sherburne has graduated from basic military training at

Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

During the six weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Sherburne is the daughter of Albert L. and Barbara R. Sherburne of Waverly Street. She is a 1998 graduate of Arlington High School.

Kelleher picked to head bar association

D. Ring Kelleher, a resident of Arlington, was recently elected president of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers, the oldest women's bar association in the United States.

Kelleher is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and Boston College Law School and

practices law in Arlington. She is also admitted to practice in New York.

Aurelio becomes health educator

Richard Aurelio of Arlington has graduated from the New England School of Whole Health Education (NESWHE) in Boston.

Richard will receive certification as a NES Whole Health Educator after completing a 250-hour clinically supervised internship which is a requirement of the two-year training program.

The Whole Health Educator serves the health care community through a unique model of health education which invites clients to participate in their health care and health recovery management. Whole Health Education can enhance the client/provider relationship by providing focused information for the client as well as providing information, if desirable, to the health care practitioner.



While on a recent 16-day Hawaiian cruise, Mr. and Mrs. Americo D'Addario of Arlington received the 40,000 Sea Miles Award from the Holland America Line.

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- Homework helpers at Thompson School, Tues., Wed, Thurs., 2:15-3:30.
- Copying and laminating help at Ottoson.
- Classroom helpers at Dallin, Kindergarten and Grade 2.
- Anyone interested in music can help the music teacher, Tues., Thurs., or Fri. at Dallin

- Needlepoint Helper at Dallin, Grade 5 during October.
- Native Hindi speaker to help 2nd grader at Dallin
- Person who likes science to work on Science-by-mail after school at Ottoson.
- Lunchtime and Library help at all elementary schools.
- Also looking for an electric typewriter in good working order.
- If you are interested in volunteering for any of the listings above, call Judi Bohn, 316-3573
- Ottoson Media Center seeks volunteers to help with shelving and bar coding books, typing or word processing call Jane Rud-

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

dock or Ellyn MacNamara 641-5440.

• Arlington High School Media Center is looking for someone who can work on tape recorders and VCR's as a troubleshooter. Call Shelley Glantz at 316-3578.

Red Cross seeking local volunteers

The American Red Cross in Newton is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals who are interested in joining the Disaster Action Team to respond to local emergencies.

If you live in Arlington and are

looking for a volunteer opportunity that will allow you to help others in need, both locally and nationally, this is the position for you! Training is provided. For more information, call Dawn Schultz, Coordinator of Volunteers (617) 527-6000.

Big Brothers needed

Big Brother Association of Greater Boston is looking for men to become volunteer mentors to boys waiting in the Arlington area.

Men interested in becoming Big Brothers, or signing up to attend a commitment free informational session should call (617)

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Suicide prevention volunteers sought

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BUSINESS NOTES

Nevins promoted at engineering firm

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH), has announced the promotion of Julianne C. Nevins of Massachusetts Avenue to the position of human resources manager.

Nevins has a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, and graduated from the University of California with an masters in Classics. She worked part time for SGH during her college years, and became a full-time employee in November 1993. Julie has supported SGH's business office in a variety of administrative roles that included human resources.

Julie's new role encompasses management of the overall human resource function for the firm. Her duties will include benefit administration, employee orientation, recruiting, affirmative

action compliance, and supervisory responsibility for SGH's administrative assistants.

UStTrust takes over two more branches

UStTrust last week completed the conversion of seven former Lexington Savings Bank branches to UStTrust offices, including two in Arlington.

UST Corp., parent company of UStTrust, acquired Lexington Savings Bank from its parent company Affiliated Community Bancorp Inc., in August.

"Lexington Savings Bank has a rich history of serving the community and UStTrust looks forward to building on this legacy," said Neal F. Finnegan, chairman and chief executive officer of UStTrust. "Over the past few months we have been working hard to ensure that this is a smooth and convenient transition for our new employees and customers."

UStTrust has been communicating extensively with Lexington Savings Banks customers.

"Personal and business customers will

have access to several product and service enhancements," said Paul Evangelista, senior vice president of marketing and delivery systems. "The faces behind the teller lines and throughout the bank will remain the same. However, our new customers will have access to a wider variety of banking services including 85 branch locations and a network of 112 ATM machines."

UStTrust is a full service bank with a total of 85 branches in eastern Massachusetts. In Arlington they now have branches at 699 Massachusetts Ave.; 1420 Massachusetts Ave.; 865 Massachusetts Ave. and 141 Massachusetts Ave.

Boston Federal plans open house

Boston Federal Savings Bank, 980 Massachusetts Ave. in Arlington, will host its annual holiday Open House/Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, Dec. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come in to meet management and staff. Refreshments will be served all day, and all visitors will receive gifts.

How to protect your privacy

Imagine, for a moment, these scenarios: You go to turn on your computer and discover that someone has erased an important file. Or, during a routine check of your finances, you go to your bank account and find that someone has taken money out of your account. At work, in the course of a busy day, your boss calls you into a meeting about some Web sites you have been visiting and e-mails you have been sending. When you get home, there is another problem you have to face: checking your email in-box leads you to discover it is filled with more junk mail than you have ever imagined.

These are scenarios happen every day in America, and they can all be prevented with a little bit of caution and a few preventative measures.

First off, keep all of your personal information to yourself. Don't share it with anyone unless you know exactly who you are dealing with and what they are planning on doing with it. Do not give out your social security number, your date of birth, or your mother's maiden name to anyone. The only people that may need to know that information would be your bank, credit card company, your employer, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Every time you give your personal information — your name, phone number, address and so forth — you subject yourself to piles of junk mail and phone calls and possibly some harm. Responding to a free offer or selecting your preferences of hobbies and interests, you are giving away information about yourself and allowing others to invade your privacy.

Even by clicking on advertisements or visiting certain Web pages you may be leaving a trace for others to know your interests and target you with certain online advertisements and email. This information can be removed from your computer by cleaning out your Web browser cache. If you don't know how to do this, look at your help contents for more information or ask a knowledgeable computer person.

Surf the Web and send e-mail from home. Most businesses can easily monitor your e-mail and Web browsing history.

Protecting yourself and your computer

can be accomplished very inexpensively. There are a number of affordable security and encryption programs on the market today, such as SecureWin (\$49), Secupc2.0 (\$59), Security 98 (\$39), or another one. These programs allow you to encrypt (scramble) important files, protect your computer with passwords and even erase certain files if someone tries hacking, or invading, your computer.

In order to completely protect your privacy, you need to remove your name from any unwanted lists. Perform searches of any online references and search engines to see where information about you may be located. If you are uncomfortable with the listing company

or the Web site, take action to remove yourself from these lists. If your phone number is unlisted in the phone book, it can often be found online at one place or another. So be thorough and look around if you don't want your information public.

Your passwords are your keys to the access of all of your information.

Create good passwords and keep them to yourself. When creating passwords do not use real names, birth

dates, your social security number, or anything else that easily relates to you. Use different passwords for different sites. At the very least use two passwords;

one for less secure information, and another very different password for the more important sites. Frequently change your password and always change a default password given to you by someone else. Also, you need to advise your children about these privacy issues. Teenagers who use the computer need to know there are risks involved. You will want to be able to leave your home and, when they go online, to feel secure they are not giving out important information to strangers, or individuals who could do you and your family harm.

To read more about this topic look up the September issue of PC World Magazine. There is a very comprehensive article about these issues and more to keep your information protected and off of the Web. You can also view the information on the web at www.pcworld.com/sep98/privacy.

BYTES FROM THE CAFE

CRAIG RABE



CHAMBER AWARDS



More than 100 other guests attended the Arlington Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet Nov. 13 where merchants and residents received awards. Pictured are, from left, President's Award recipient Richard Bento, director of Arlington Public Works Dept.; Business Display Creativity Award recipients Heather Burns and Diane Hunter of Just Blossoming; Director's Award recipient Richard Moskow, CPA; Mark Wanamaker of Wanamaker's Hardware, honored for 75 years of business; Joseph Balich of Balich 5 & 10, honored for 25 years of business; Citizen of the Year recipient Margaret Phaneuf of Sports Etc.; Business Person of the Year recipient William Cronin of Sweeney & O'Connell Real Estate; Leonard Talkov Award recipients President Kevin Fitzgerald for Cambridge Savings Bank; Denise Davis (back row) and Rachel Baxter (front row right) representing Trader Joe's for New Business of the Year Award. Seated left to right Carol Ryerson, president Chamber of Commerce; Charles Pappas, vice president Chamber of Commerce; and Carolyn Simmons, executive secretary for the Chamber of Commerce.

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COMMENT



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

Reaching new Heights

Several years ago — when dozens of town planners, merchants and interested residents discussed visions of the future for Arlington's business community — eyes often were cast longingly to Lexington Center.

The retail climate in Lexington was thought to be better, the town's center seemed more inviting to visitors, and people wanted to know if Arlington could duplicate the success of its neighbor to the west.

The tables have turned, somewhat. On Friday, Lexington Center merchants and planners discussed the Arlington Heights revitalization project. Many marveled at how Arlington pulled it off, and whether they could do something along the same lines to spruce up their business district.

This is one of several dozen comments we've heard concerning the \$1.4 million 'streetscape' upgrade to the Heights. Most have been positive, although some residents have criticized what they perceive as the new, harsh lighting in the business district.

Overall, the project looks great. Without inviting in trendy stores and boutiques, town planners have managed to drastically improve the image of the business district. The street lights are fashionable, the planters colorful, and the brick and granite crosswalks are classy.

When the ABC Study — the town's vision for its business future — was released three years ago, it was disappointing in its lack of firm plans. Using this document, the town's planning department, Redevelopment Board, and Heights merchants put together the revitalization plan.

If future plans for business districts in Arlington Center and East Arlington are as successful, the ABC Study will be worth its price tag.

The Heights project was the official re-opening celebration last Thursday, highlighted by pony rides for the children, free samples for their parents, and a giant Christmas tree.

It was a great evening. The Chamber of Commerce should think about making it an annual event, tying in to the start of the holiday season. Perhaps in the future Massachusetts Avenue could be closed, turning the shopping district into a pedestrian mall on the night of the holiday celebration.

While the facelift looks great, the results of the revitalization effort will not be known for several years. If the empty stores fill up, and if the owners of the buildings catch the revitalization spirit and improve their facades, the plan will have been a success.

Submitting news

It's easy to submit news to *The Arlington Advocate*. We want to help publicize your activities, but you've got to help us, too.

Three quick points to remember:

- Give us your information in writing.
- Give us ample time to process your news.
- Include a name and a phone so that we can contact you for more information if necessary.

A news release tells Who is doing What, When, Where, and Why. Often the How may be necessary, too. Always include the time, date, and place of the event, including the address of the meeting place. Double-spaced typewritten copy if preferred. If information must be handwritten, write legibly on one side of the paper only. We cannot publish information that is not clear.

Letters to the editor should be concise and contain the signature and address of the author. Telephone numbers will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters are subject to editing.

Sports information should be directed to our sports editor, Walter Moynihan, at 674-7724.

The deadline for all press releases and opinion pieces is 3 p.m. on Friday for the following week's issue. The only exceptions are reports of weekend events, which are accepted until 3 p.m. Monday. The deadline for letters to the editor is noon Monday. During weeks with holidays, deadlines are often made earlier.

News items should be sent to: Editor, *The Arlington Advocate*, 9 Meriam St., Lexington, Mass., 02173. Items may also be sent to our Internet address: arlington@cnc.com; or faxed to 674-7735.

We've also added another option that should make it easier for you to get us your news. We now have drop-boxes for letters and news items at White Hen Pantry, 94 Summer St., and at D'Agostino's Deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave.



Cellucci gets hard questions in the Big Easy

NEW ORLEANS - The Big Easy was anything but for acting Gov. Paul Cellucci.

Cellucci, fresh from his victory over Scott Harshbarger, had high hopes when he headed south last Tuesday to attend the national Republican Governors Association meeting.

Not only did Cellucci believe he had received a mandate from the voters after eight years of the Weld/Cellucci era, he did what many outside Massachusetts find remarkable - he was able to beat a Democrat in Massachusetts.

In fact, his status as a Republican victor in the land of Kennedys was supposed to be something of a calling card for Cellucci in New Orleans. It was supposed to elevate him - if only for a few days - above the gritty day-to-day grind of state politics.

But sometimes, gritty politics have a way of catching up with you - even if you are more than a thousand miles away by the humid shores of the Mississippi delta.

For Cellucci, those political realities started knocking at his door almost the moment he landed.

Before he had a chance to pitch his ideas about education or tax cuts, rumors flashed across the news wires warning about an impending deal between New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft and a fellow Republican governor

AT THE STATEHOUSE

Steve LEBLANC



from New England - Connecticut's John Rowland. Cellucci skipped an afternoon photo opportunity - a press event Rowland ironically was also scheduled to attend. Rowland was at home closing the deal with Kraft. Cellucci was in his hotel room trying to put the best spin on the loss.

The next day, Thursday, things took a turn for the worse for Cellucci. At 11 a.m., Kraft and Rowland went public with the deal. Kraft signed an agreement to negotiate exclusively with Connecticut for a new \$350 million, 65,000-seat stadium in downtown Hartford - on the taxpayer's tab.

While Kraft and Rowland were shaking hands, Cellucci was preparing for a 1 p.m. press conference to discuss the fallout.

It was not the kind of attention Cellucci had hoped for on his trip. He had hoped to highlight his education initiatives and historic \$1 billion tax cut.

Instead he found himself explaining away the loss of a NFL franchise despite years of botched

negotiation.

"It is pretty clear that the offer...on the table far exceeds what I believe the taxpayers of Massachusetts would be willing to support," Cellucci said. "\$350 million of taxpayer's dollars is an extraordinarily sweet deal."

Cellucci did two other things at the press conference.

First, he tried to deflect criticism off himself and onto the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Cellucci is not completely wrong. House Speaker Thomas Finneran is generally seen as the major opponent of spending tax dollars on football stadiums. Finneran did offer his own, less costly plan to the Patriots - a deal Kraft rejected as unacceptable.

After that, Finneran simply refused to budge. He did not even bother naming a special committee to see if differences between the House and more generous Senate versions of the bill could be hammered out.

True to form, however, Cellucci refused to blame Finneran directly, instead spreading the blame out among all members of the House.

The second thing Cellucci did at last Thursday's press conference was downplay the impact of the loss.

Sure it's nice to have your own football team and sure, Patriots fans will not be pleased, but in the grand scheme of things there are

more important priorities than being home to Drew Bledsoe's playing field, Cellucci said.

He rightly pointed out the state's economy does not hinge on the Patriots' spotty scoring record and that there are more important tasks ahead - namely, improving the schools, for one.

Which essentially brings the story full circle. Cellucci came to talk about tax cuts and education and he did just that, even if no one else was listening.

The determination was part of the reason Cellucci decided not to return to Massachusetts on Wednesday, when it was becoming clear a deal was on the verge of completion.

"Were any people killed? Were there any homes damaged?" He quipped when asked whether he should have flown back.

Politically, it was probably wiser for Cellucci to stay out of state and incommunicado as the story blew over. If he did return home and bang on his desk before the news cameras, the deal still would have gone through - and Cellucci's actions would only have reminded people how big a loss it was.

So Cellucci opted to play it smart and stick it out in New Orleans - which, in yet another irony of this irony-filled story, was the site of the Patriots' last Superbowl appearance.

Jambalaya.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heights re-opening was a great event

To the editor:

What a great event! The Arlington Heights Reopening celebration was crowded with people shopping, meeting their neighbors and enjoying our newly beautified local shopping district. What wonderful neighbors they are and what splendid shopping.

Within an easy walk, you can get tasty, freshly ground peanut butter at Arlington Health Foods, practical hardware and advice at Wanamaker Hardware, attractive and affordable clothes at Just Like New, spiritual and inspiring books at Unicorn Books, soothing remedies at Menotomy Drugs and nearly everything else at Balich 5 & 10.

You can get Thai food, Indian food, deli food and pizza, cookies, flowers, haircuts and ice cream, gym workouts, insurance, appliances, and antiques, karate lessons, dance classes, travel services and banking, lumber, gifts, sporting goods and stamps, pets, draperies, bread and movies, cleaning and printing and groceries and more. With all this great local shopping, you can skip the mall altogether! I know I do.

When you shop in Arlington

Heights, the person behind the counter is often the person who owns the business. These local small business owners can provide service that is attentive, responsive, caring and personalized. You get the kind of good service you'll seldom find in a chain store.

Arlington Heights shopping was good and is now even better. All it needs to be nearly perfect is shuttle service up and around the hills - like the brand new Somerville Crosstown Shuttle. Let's support our citizens and our businesses by making that our next improvement.

Rachael Stark
George Street

New clock in Heights should be given away

To the Editor:

Who decided that the intersection of Mass and Park Avenues would be improved by a hideous chunk of street furniture like the gaudy four-faced blob of a clock recently installed there?

Let's cut our losses and donate it to the food court of a deserving factory outlet mall.

Terry Dineen
Scituate Street

New look of Heights is a big improvement

To The Editor:

I, for one, have had enough of people complaining about the Heights renovation project.

Arlington Heights now looks better than Lexington Center (I compared). It looks better than Belmont Center. It's better than I ever expected, and I was expecting a lot.

With the awful, old-style, too-tall "War of the Worlds" lamp-posts gone, with the new planters, the benches, the holiday banners and dozens of healthy new trees, the whole shopping area feels in-scale and friendly - from one end to the other! Even the bus-station got a face-lift.

And the "Grand Re-opening" was a great time, proving once and for all that people will come out if you give them a reason.

My thanks to everyone - from Town officials and the Chamber of Commerce, to the merchants and the workmen - who made this all happen. It was a lot of work, I'm sure, but it has obviously and handsomely paid off.

Patrice Robertie
Park Avenue

Shouldn't Osco sell property to church?

To the editor:

Many people seem to be spending a lot of time thinking about what to do with the Time Oldsmobile site now that Osco appears to have lost it.

However, if my memory (fallible, of course) serves me right, didn't St. Athanasius Church next door want to purchase the site? Didn't its bid fall only slightly short of American Stores' winning bid? Would it not make sense for American Stores to sell the site to the church? I seem to recall that the church's plan was for a parking lot and a building for church functions. This seems a perfectly appropriate use for the site. Is there a reason why the church should not now be able to carry out its original intention?

Kim Haase
Park Avenue

Rezoning Osco's is the right decision

To the editor:

The Arlington Redevelopment Board should be applauded for

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It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 8

denying Osco a special permit to develop the former Time Oldsmobile site at Mill Street and Mass Ave. It made the right decision for the right reasons. But the town should now take the next step and rezone the site from B2A to B1 at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Why? Because B1 is the only zoning that would prohibit a high-traffic development like Osco at the site. Moreover, should Osco appeal, it would show town-wide support for the reasoning behind the Board's decision, and could strengthen the town's case in court.

As the Board understood, the problem with a high-traffic retail development is that it would significantly worsen the congestion at peak hours at the already congested Mill St./Mass Ave. intersection. Osco's own studies showed that traffic delays on Mass Ave. at the traffic light were expected to quadruple at evening rush hour. And a careful look at Osco's study showed that it significantly underestimated what will probably be the real level of traffic into the site.

The large amount of traffic into and out of the site is also a problem because of the hazard it poses to those passing the site on foot or bicycle. This site is exceptional because of the large amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic passing it, due in large part to its proximity to the bike path and the high school. Indeed, the kind of development that is appropriate for this site changed with the opening of the bike path in late 1993.

B1 zoning may be more restrictive than some would like. Unfortunately, Arlington's zoning categories are all or nothing — there is no zoning category that allows low-traffic retail but not high-traffic retail. Any zoning besides B1 allows a development like Osco. (This suggests the town should begin to look at revising its zoning categories.)

But B1 is not too restrictive — it allows a range of uses that would be appropriate and profitable for the site. The local group Arlington Citizens for Responsible Development has worked with a group of architects to develop a range of ideas for the site. (Some of these examples can be seen at the group's web site at www.acrd.org.)

Finally, rezoning the site as B1 would make it compatible with the other B1 properties that abut the site on the east and south.

While the Redevelopment Board did deny Osco its permit, it did so only after a dramatic reversal at the eleventh hour. It made the right decision this time, but there is no guarantee that it would do so the next time. To keep such high-traffic retail from the site, the town should preclude this option and rezone the site.

David Wright
Windermere Lane

Rezoning Osco site fits in with ABC study

To the editor:
What a lovely evening on Thursday at the rejuvenated Arlington Heights village section at the Park Avenue/Massachusetts Avenue intersection! Now, if East Arlington could just lend the Capital Theater to the Heights it would be the perfect "village center." The landscapers and diverse and interesting small businesses have made Arlington Heights an inviting area. It will be a magnet for miles around. (The town must make sure that whatever developer eventually develops the huge T parking lot — behind the manicured row of locust trees and shrubbery — sets aside enough well-signed public parking places to cope with the overflow parking needs here. We have an obligation to protect our existing businesses.) Sixty urns planted with holly, winterberry, weeping pine and scarlet dogwood twigs are understated and tasteful between the ornamental lighting fixtures and period storefronts. The enthusiastic landscaper has crafted a plan for fall, winter, spring and summer plantings.

Let's hope we can generate a similar atmosphere at the Mill St./Mass Ave. intersection with existing or new small businesses sensitive to our local needs and no overarching huge corporate store subject to out-of-state decisions and global marketing directives.

With the corner section now vacant we could even have a really wide landscaped sidewalk which could accommodate a small restaurant with outdoor summer dining (like on Newbury Street in Boston) to take advantage of the aspects of both the civic block and the historic districts near the Mill Brook and Bikeway.

Wasn't that what the Arlington Business Community Study (which we taxpayers paid for) was all about? This is part of one of the three "village centers" of that study. Consider three quotes from that study:

• "The street is 'tamer' here, less dominated by vehicular traffic, and more friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians, with traffic moving more slowly and in an organized fashion. Crossing the street on foot, in a car, or on a bicycle is easy and safe."

• "Arlington's rich heritage has made her a major destination for tourists in the Boston area who come year round, by tour bus, bike, and car to this central location on the old Battle Road. The Schwamb Mill, the Jason Russell House, the Jefferson Cutter House and the Whittemore-Robbins House are the settings for four distinctly different and totally engrossing stories dealing respectively with early industry: April 19, 1775; 19th century farming,

and the genteel life of the Turn of the (previous) Century."

• "Sidewalk cafes have opened (at the village centers), with planters and bright, big umbrellas defining their outdoor space. In the pedestrian realm, new street trees, flower boxes, and strategically placed benches invite strolling. Parking places turn over sufficiently; both on and off-street parking is well used but available due to good management. Bicycle parking is abundant ..."

Arlington's Town Meeting members can help us realize the promise of the ABC Study by voting "yes" on Articles 4 and 5 (study committee on 5) in the Dec. 2 Special Town Meeting.

Patricia B. Worden
Jason Street

Town has been fair in treatment of Osco

To the editor:
Now that the Arlington Redevelopment board has rejected Osco's request for a special permit to build a store on the corner of Mill Street and Massachusetts Ave., it looks like Osco is left with a piece of property that they can't build on and so is now worth less than the \$2.1 million they paid for it.

Some people may think that Arlington hasn't treated Osco fairly.

But in reality, Osco chose to gamble — and lost. Osco's lawyers surely knew that a special permit is required to build on all Mass Ave. properties. Yet Osco apparently chose to buy the property without contingencies.

Virtually no one buys a piece of real estate without contingencies. Prospective homeowners usually sign a purchase and sale agreement with the transfer of title subject to various inspections and financing. Similarly, commercial agreements often include contingencies having to do with environmental approvals, variances and town permits. Indeed, Osco recently signed purchase and sale agreements with contingencies in Sudbury and Framingham. In both cases, Osco was denied a permit and then moved on without having to dispose of a piece of property. Why Osco didn't go this route in Arlington is unclear, but it is certainly not the town's fault.

On the other hand, Osco may not have treated Arlington fairly.

Even with nothing on the site, the intersection at Mill Street and Mass Ave. is already congested during rush hours. Osco knew that increased traffic would be a barrier to receiving a special permit. Yet Osco based its traffic estimates on comparisons with other stores that were not chosen to

reflect the characteristics of the proposed Arlington site. In fact, several of the nine comparison stores Osco used have little in common with the proposed Arlington store. This is at best sloppy, and at worst dishonest. Eliminating these inappropriate comparison stores gives an estimate for the number of cars per day at the proposed Arlington store that is at least 25 percent higher than that given by Osco.

Even more troubling, it appears that Osco provided the town with misinformation to strengthen their case for a special permit. In response to concerns about truck traffic, Osco's representatives told the Redevelopment Board on two separate occasions that there would be approximately 15 truck deliveries a week. Yet newspapers alone would account for 15 deliveries a week (the *Globe* and *Herald* are delivered daily and the *Advocate* weekly). And an analysis by Arlington Citizens for Responsible Development estimated 48 truck deliveries per week from independent distributors such as Coca-Cola, Snapple, and West Lynn Dairy.

Osco may lose money on this site, but it has been treated fairly by Arlington — more fairly than it has treated the town.

Lisbeth Gronlund
Windermere Lane

Town Meeting can make streets safe

To the Editor:
Our businesses at Mill Street/Mass. Ave. and the Greek Orthodox Church are dependent on the Town for good decisions to keep the area safe and attractive enough so that their clients and parishioners respectively will keep coming. They and high school students, bikers, and elderly and blind pedestrians are threatened by the increase of 800-1,000 vehicular arrivals per day anticipated if a big box "Osco" type store goes in at that intersection.

Some think that we would be

polite and responsible to encourage a mega million dollar corporation from out of state to dominate that area. Should we consider at all these pedestrians and the merchants who have worked hard to get established? Would we miss our hardware, food, auto parts, retail, service shops, and church in the area if they can't survive or if they start to hurt badly? Does it matter if a few more pedestrians, bikers, children and high school students are mowed down in motor vehicle accidents each year?

I think the answer is resoundingly "Yes," that these things do matter and we would miss our businesses. So let's stop the problem before it starts. This can be done if our Town Meeting Members vote to downzone the Osco site from high intensity vehicular based retail (B 2A zoning) to low intensity business (B1). They can do this simply by voting "Yes" on Article 4 at the Dec. 2 Town Meeting.

Wilbur Kim
Irving Street

Supporting Osco is not pro-business

To the Editor:
Some people say they are pro business and they want a big traffic store like Osco on the corner of Mill Street and Mass Ave. Well, I'd like them to think about what will happen to the businesses that are already here and have been here a long time serving the people of Arlington. What's going to happen to them?

I'll tell you. They're going to lose business because customers will not fight the traffic congestion to buy an auto part from me or a piece of hardware from Shat-tucks or gym shorts from Holovak and Coughlin or some fabric from Fabric Corner. Instead of sitting in a traffic jam waiting to get to FoodMaster, people in the Mystic Street area will go to the Star Market in Woburn. People in East Arlington will go to Hillside Hardware in Belmont. This is not good.

You can't have it both ways. One type of business is going to hurt another type of business. We want Town Meeting to vote for B-

1. Then the site can be developed with businesses that would not require as many car trips as the larger super stores need in order to be profitable.

Any other business zoning (B2 or B3 or B5) allows an Osco or any other similar super store. Town Meeting members, please vote "Yes" on Warrant Article No. 4 that changes this site to a B1 zone.

Daniel Xenos
Kensington Park
NAPA Auto Parts

Remember the rich history of Osco site

To the Editor:
This week we are reminded to be thankful for what we have, including our town and especially for its residents and our neighbors who have worked so hard to keep it safe and attractive. It has been wonderful to see so many involved in preventing a super-store development come into the Time Olds/Osco site next to St. Athanasius Church at the congested Mill Street/Massachusetts Avenue intersection. This intersection is near the busiest level entry to the Minuteman bike path (close to which a school student was the victim of a motor vehicle accident just last week).

We are also reminded to be thankful for our rich history. There is a connection between the Minutemen and the Osco site. Reverend Samuel Abbott Smith, great-grandfather of the late Elizabeth Abbott Smith of Academy Street, wrote in 1864 that Jason Russell's gate on Battle Road (now Mass. Ave.) adjacent to that site was barricaded on April 19, 1775 to provide cover from which to fire on the British troops returning from Lexington. Ammi Cutter, Jason Russell's neighbor came from his house in the region of the Osco site "to see Mr. Russell and advised him to go to a place of greater security. Jason Russell refused, saying, 'An Englishman's house is his castle.'" As we all know, Mr. Cutter survived and Mr. Russell did not, but Mr. Russell's "castle" is still with us, carefully preserved, just as it was two centuries ago, whereas the only way

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 9

we could honor Mr. Cutter's house is by having a memorial at the Osco site, hopefully something other than a super-store.

Jean Potter
Pleasant View Road
Margaret Potter
Irving Street

School committee shirking duty

To the editor:
Carolyn Simmons' ad hoc approach to evaluating Arlington's school superintendent suggests that some School Committee members do not understand their legal obligations and their role as supervisors.

Personnel policies are crafted to anticipate the exception, not the rule. The fact that a superintendent is performing satisfactorily now is no guarantee that performances will remain satisfactory in the future. In such cases, a written history tracking the relationship, any performance problems and steps taken to mitigate them, is imperative to protect the school district.

Ms. Donovan's tenure won't last forever. Changing the policies when a new superintendent takes charge would be insulting, at the very least, sending the message that the School Committee lacks confidence in its employee from the outset. If the policy remains unchanged, and a future superintendent's performance is problematic, the School Committee will lack the written record to defend its actions should the need arise.

Supervision is key to School Committee members' job, not ancillary. It should never be done casually. Any employee, no matter how senior, deserves to know how she or he is performing relative to expectations.

The real issue here is not about Ms. Donovan's performance, but about how well School Committee members discharge their legal, policy and practical obligations. The policy was changed, not because it reflects sound practice, but because three School Committee members, Carolyn Simmons, David McKenna and Bill Carey are remiss in their own performance.

I recommend that we, the vot-

ers, take written, decisive action at the ballot box to replace these School Committee members with others willing to discharge their responsibilities.

Kate Harris
Ottawa Road

Thrope using paper to throw stones

To the Editor:
I believe that the Arlington School Committee can develop a way to evaluate a superintendent that will encompass the different views of school committee members and take into account the advice of our legal counsel. In fact, as Marty Thrope knows, I've continued to explore ways of doing this and refining my motion. So I was shocked that, instead of continuing the dialogue, he wrote a column (Advocate, Nov. 19) criticizing me and four other school committee members.

School system policy is made by a committee of seven members. While members should keep the public aware of their positions on issues, using the press to throw stones at colleagues only inhibits meaningful discourse. This, in turn, impedes the development of sound policy.

Over the past several years, school committee members have worked hard to overcome differences, build consensus, and focus on our common goal — the education of our children. Let's bring the issue back to the table and continue the discussion in a respectful and civil manner.

Barbara C. Goodman
Walnut Street

Contractors group backs bylaw repeal

To the editor:
On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts (AGC), I would echo support for the repeal of the town of Arlington bylaw that requires a special town builder's license for contractors before they are able to work in that community. We understand that the bylaw has been in effect since 1972.

The reason for our support of repeal is that since 1982 a uniform Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License requirement

has been promulgated and that a majority of the communities in the commonwealth have adopted this state requirement as the licensing benchmark for construction professionals.

While having a separate exam for contractors performing work in Arlington was probably a very good idea in 1972, its existence today seems redundant. Since 1972, a number of safeguards, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the certification of designers and engineers are now required. In fact, OSHA's Standards for the Construction Industry, are quite encompassing with that federal agency's Boston regional office being extremely vigilant with enforcement of these standards.

While the AGC fully supports the highest benchmarks of safety, quality control, training, teamwork, as well as a highly skilled workforce on the job site, we believe the current Massachusetts State Builder's License Course, accepted and utilized by the vast majority of other municipalities, can quite sufficiently address the original reasons for implementing the 1972 bylaw as well as some of the present concerns town officials have about securing the most qualified individuals to manage construction projects within the town of Arlington.

In this case, the duplication could be viewed as more costly in terms of test administration and time lost/project delays to both the town and contractor. In addition, the existence of separate builder's licenses by individual communities has the effect of discouraging competition which, in the long term, is not in the best interest of the community.

Thank you for allowing AGC the opportunity to comment on this issue and respectfully request the Board of Selectmen's positive consideration.

The Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, a Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, is a 63-year-old trade association dedicated to the promotion of excellence within the state's construction indus-

try. Its members consist of general contractors, both large and small, union and open shop, that perform a majority of the commercial, institutional and public vertical building in the Commonwealth.

Robert L. Petrucci
Executive Director
Associated General Contractors
of Massachusetts

Disappointed with cheerleading support

To the editor:
I write this letter to congratulate the Pop Warner 'D' Cheerleading Squad for their performance at Saturday's cheerleading competition at Brandeis University. The squad had placed third earlier and this was the next round of competition. Unfortunately, Arlington did not place this time.

The real reason for my letter, however, is to say how disappointed I am in the residents of Arlington. In addition to the cheerleader's athletic abilities and choreography, the squad is also tested on their ability to rouse the audience. It was very disappointing to find so few relatives and friends (and no other Arlington cheerleader or football player) to encourage these girls on.

It was apparent to me (and the cheerleaders), that those squads whom consistently placed also had the best audience participation. These towns sat together, wore the town's colors, and responded to the girls' cheers (obviously familiar with their routines). Not only did it add points to the squad's scores, but it also spoke (loudly) how they appreciate the girls' hard work.

To top off what was already an embarrassing situation, one parent grabbed her daughter, who was surrounded by second place Medford cheerleaders, and said, "Let's go. They can stick their ribbons..." Needless to say, the daughter already feeling bad, began to cry harder.

Lastly, I want to thank Theresa Dooley for all her efforts as Arlington's Association Cheer Coordinator. She puts in many hours and yet is left explaining to the cheerleaders why Arlington residents aren't there to cheer them on.

Many people reading this are

thinking to themselves, "Get a life!" I do have a life — and it involves our children.

Valerie F. Sarazen
Gray Street

Howard thanks Cellucci supporters

To the Editor:
I would like to thank those Arlington voters who came out for our Governor Elect Paul Cellucci last week. As most observers will agree, we were very fortunate to hold the opposition forces here in Arlington to 58 percent of the vote.

Special thanks to Mary Young for her consistent efforts in making the Cellucci campaign visible throughout Arlington and to those who took the time to help her in what turned out to be a real squeaker.

For those who stayed home watching the polls allowing others do the heavy lifting, let it be a lesson. Another week and the results would have been quite different.

Douglas J. Howard
4th Middlesex Field Coordinator
Cellucci-Swift Campaign

Moynihan, Advocate thanked for coverage

To the editor:
Thanksgiving is a special time of year to be grateful for the many things that enhance our lives. On behalf of the Arlington Boys & Girls Club we would like to thank the staff at the The Arlington Advocate, especially Walter Moynihan, for the fine coverage of our activities over the past year.

The Advocate is most helpful in getting our message out to the public. Please know we truly appreciate the support and wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Daniel F. Brosnan
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club

Rep. Paulsen thanks her supporters

To the Editor:
I want to thank the citizens of Belmont and Arlington who went to the polls on November 3rd and cast a vote for me.

I look forward to continuing to work on issues of concern to the people of the 26th Middlesex District.

Anne M. Paulsen
State Representative

Pregnant teens must know there's help

To the editor:
Thankfully, the woman who recently left "Baby Julia" on the doorstep of a Newton home made an effort to assure that her child would be found, taken in, and cared for. As we've seen in the news in recent years, so many other babies have not been so lucky. It frightens me to think that some presumably young women feel as if they have no choices — regarding their pregnancies, and their child's well being. Some, I would guess, feel as if they have no choice about getting pregnant in the first place. I can imagine that many young women, upon finding out that they are pregnant, feel scared, confused and alone.

They become paralyzed, denying to themselves what is happening, therefore denying themselves of the opportunity to plan for their future. What makes some young women so afraid to acknowledge their pregnancy to themselves and to their families? Why don't they realize that they do have choices? Don't they know that there are places they can go? Places where they can seek confidential counseling in a supportive environment to make their own decision about their pregnancy.

Perhaps those of us in the human service community have not done a very good job of reaching out to those young women. Maybe young women in this situation think that they only have two choices — either they terminate the pregnancy early or they have to parent their child. Don't they know that adoption can also be a choice for them? They can choose a Closed Adoption — choosing to have no contact with their child or the adoptive family; an Identified Adoption — choosing the adoptive family from someone they know, or know of; or they can choose to have an Open Adoption for their child — selecting, meeting and possibly maintaining contact with the adoptive family and their child.

Isn't it always better when we feel that we have choices? Doesn't it help us to feel in control? I wish young women could know that they have some options available to them, and they don't have to feel alone.

Mary Ellen K. Butler, LICSW
Boston Children's Services
Choices for Pregnant Women



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